Material Behaviors/Human Factors: An Architecture at the Scale of the Interior

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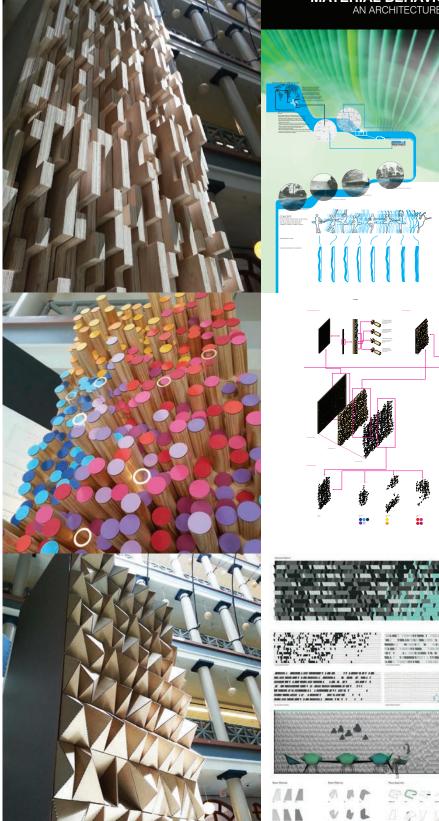
The Material Behaviors / Human Factors project is new curriculum for a second-year, design-build studio collaboration focusing on Interior Architecture that explores the potential for performative space-making derived from the constraints of a restricted material system. Examining an underpotentialized space through an alternative lens, this project leveraged the social, spatial, functional, and phenomenological opportunities offered by a material—laminate—and an existing building interior. Projects were charged with attaining the goal of zero-waste design and construction strategies paired with locally manufactured materials.

The studio offered an opportunity to partner with a laminate manufacturer to explore and extend the conventional applications of laminate in building interiors. Students worked in collaborative teams to conceive and design five unique, full-scale design-build projects. Employing conventional architectural surveying equipment, students accurately recorded the floor plans and elevations of an existing interiorspace. After the site visit, students produced a shared base set of 'as-built' technical drawings. Five prototypes were built at using analog and digital skills. Advanced fabrication techniques were used alongside traditional craft methodologies for interior applications.

This studio offered a critical, real world design-build opportunity at the scale of the human body. Through their first full-scale building experience using intensive architectural detailing and craft, students envisioned new, performance-based spatial and material opportunities for interior building togopraphies through the lens of sustainable practices.

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